

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187834

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOGADISCIO 1677 ACTION SECSTATE JUL 24.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1677

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SO, US

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT ASKS ABOUT MILITARY SURVEY TEAM VISIT

1. VICE PRESIDENT KULMIYE INQUIRED ABOUT THE US MILITARY SURVEY TEAM DURING AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH THE CHARGE JULY 23. THE VICE PRESIDENT WAS IN AN EXPASIVE MOOD AT THE EGYPTIAN NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION. HE ASKED ABOUT USAKD'S AGRICULTURAL TEAM, AND THE REACTION OF CODEL LEGGETT TO THEIR SOMALIA TRIP. AFTER DISCUSSING THESE POINTS FOR A FEW MINUTES, DURING WHICH TIME CHARGE AGAIN THANKED THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR HIS HOSPITALITY TO THE CODEL, KULMIYE SAID, "WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER DELEGATION, THE MILITARY TEAM?" CHARGE RESPONDED THAT THE EMBASSY DID NOT HAVE A DATE FOR
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PAGE 02 STATE 187834

THE TEAM'S VISIT. BEFORE KULMIYE COULD ADD ANYTHING FURTHER, THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR, WHO HAD BEEN STANDING PATIENTLY BY WAITING HIS TURN, CAME FORWARD AND MADE HIS GREETINGS TO THE VICE PRESIDENT.

2. COMMENT: THE VICE PRESIDENT'S CURIOSITY WAS INDICATIVE OF THE MOOD AT THE RECEPTION. EVERY KNOW-

LEDGEABLE DIPLOMAT PUT A SIMILAR QUESTION TO THE CHARGE. WHETHER KULMIYE'S QUERY WAS DESIGNED TO BE A SERIOUS GSDR REPRESENTATION IS NOT CLEAR, BUT DOES NOT APPEAR LIKELY. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR MOHAMED SHERIF HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW-UP IN A LONGER CONVERSATION WITH THE CHARGE LATER THAT SAME EVENING. THE SOMALI DG DID NOT DO SO. WITH PRESIDENT SIAD'S ANTICIPATED RETURN TODAY, JULY 24, OFFICIAL CURIOSITY ON THE SOMALI PART MAY MOUNT.
VOUGHT

UNQUOTE VANCE

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